There is no loss of duty as such as the order has been passed in quasi-judicial proceedings. Legal remedies are available against the order passed in adjudication.

1365. [*Transferred to the 31st July, 1991*]

Qualification laid down for appointment of Local (Health) Authority by Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration, Delhi Administration

1366. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration Delhi Administration, Delhi has laid down the minimum qualification for the appointment of Local (Health) Authority as post graduation in science or equivalent in the recruitment rules;

(b) if so, whether the technical qualifications of food hygiene, science and Human health is necessary for Local (Health) Authority to enable him come to the right conclusion in respect of destruction of seized perishable food articles under Section 10(4.-A) of PFA Act; and

(c) if so, action proposed by Government to denotify the non-technical SDMs of Delhi notified as Local (Health) Authority under PFA Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration, Delhi Administration, has prescribed Post-graduate in Science or equivalent as minimum qualification for appointment to the post of Local (Health) Authority.

There is no statutorily prescribed qualification for Local (Health) Authority under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Clue to mysterious killer disease in the capital

1367. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doctors/Specialists of various Government hospitals in the capital have failed to find the clue to the mysterious killer disease; so far;

(b) whether the Doctors of Batra Hospital, New Delhi, a private hospital and its medical research centre has found the clues of the disease and diagnoses, accordingly, to the victims;

(c) if so, the reasons for failure on the side of the Government doctors to detect the mysterious disease; and

(d) whether Government propose to modernise the testing systems of blood, etc. in various Government hospitals, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d) A number of cases were admitted to some of the hospitals in Delhi during the last week of June, 1991 and beginning of July, 1991 with high fever and semi-consciousness/ unconsciousness. They had no other clinical signs or symptoms to indicate any specific disease. These cases have been diagnosed as heat hyper-pyrexiaence, there is no mystery about the disease.

Criteria for defining the backward sections

1368. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the definition of the term "socially and educationally

backward classes" whether the economically backward categories are automatically included in socially and educationally backward category; and

(b) what criteria is being observed for determing the economically backward sections?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The term "Socially and Educationally Backward Classes" appear in article 15 (4) and Article 340 of the Constitution. Courts have from time to time, given various pronouncements on the interpretation of the term.

2. The criteria adopted by the Mandal Commission for identification of the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) are given in the attached Statement.

(b) No decision has so far been taken on criteria for determining economically backward sections.

Statement

Extracts from the report of the backward classes commission first part (Vol. I & II), 1980 (Mandal Commission report) (Shri B. P. Mandal, Chairman)

Indicators (Criteria) for Social and Educational Backwardness

11.23 As a result of the above exercise, the Commission evolved eleven 'Indicators' or 'criteria' for determining social and educational backwardness. These 11 'Indicators' were grouped under three broad heads, i.e. Social, Educational and Economic. They are:

A. Social

(i) Castes|Classes considered as socially backward by others.

(ii) Castes|Classes which mainly depend on manual labour for their livelihood.

(iii) Castes|Classes where at least 25 per cent females and 10 per cent males above the State average get married at an age below 17 years in rural areas and at least 10 per cent females and 5 per cent males do so in urban areas.

(iv) Castes|Classes where participation of females in work is at least 25 per cent above the State average.

B. Educational

(v) Castes|Classes where the number of children in the age group of 5-15 years who never attended school is at least 25 per cent above the State average.

(vi) Castes|Classes where the rate of student drop-out in the age group of 5-15 years is at least 25 per cent above the State average.

(vii) Castes|Classes amongst whom he proportion of matriculates is at least 25 per cent below the State average.

C. Economic

(viii) Castes|Classes where the average value of family assets is at least 25 per cent below the State average.

(ix) Castes|Classes where the number of families living in Kuccha houses is at least 25 per cent above the State average.

(x) Castes|Classes where the source of drinking water is beyond half a kilometer for more than 50 per cent of the households.

(xi) Castes|Classes where the number of house-holds having taken consumption loan is at least 25 per cent above the State average.

11.24 As the above three groups are not of equal importance four our purpose, separate weightage was given to 'indicators' in each group. All the Social 'Indicators' were given a weightage of 3 points each, Educational 'Indicators' a weightage of 2 points each and Economic 'Indicators' a weightage of one point each. Economic in addition to Social and Educational Indicators, were considered important as they directly flowed from social and educational backwardness. This also helped to highlight the fact that socially and educationally backward classes are economically backward also.

11.25 It will be seen that from the values given to each Indicator, the total score adds upto 22. All these 11 Indicators were applied to all the castes covered by the survey for a particular State. As a result of this application, all castes which had a score of 50 per cent (i.e. 11 points) or above were listed as socially and educationally backward and the rest were treated as 'advanced'.

12.18 After giving a good deal of thought to these difficulties the Commission has evolved the following rough and ready criteria for identifying non-Hindu OBCs:—

(i) All untouchables converted to any non-Hindu religion; and

(ii) Such occupational communities which are known by the name of their traditional hereditary occupation and whose Hindu counterparts have been included in the list of Hindu OBCs, (Examples: Dhobi, Teli, Dheemar, Nai, Gujar, Kumhar, Lohar, Darji, Badhai etc).

Permission to NRIs for selling gold to Reserve Bank of India

1369. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NRIs would be permitted to sell gold to Reserve Bank of India in future, if so, would it be at international price and in Indian rupee;

(b) whether Government are aware that the option of gold selling to Reserve Bank of India by NRI would discourage them to deposit dollars in India Bank; and

(c) what are the interest rate of IMF and World Bank for short, medium and long term loans and what are the rates for NRI deposits of similar range?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) The interest rates of IMF are determined from time to time depending on the prevailing SDR interest rates, with certain adjustments. Currently the rate is 8.31 per cent per annum.

The world Bank new variable lending rate linked to cost of borrowings for projects for the semester ending June, 1991 was 7.73 per cent per annum.

The present interest rates for FCNR deposits are as under:—

Currency	6 months	1 year	2 year	3 year
Pound Sterling	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25
US Dollars	8.50	8.00	8.50	9.00
Deutsche Mark	10.00	10.25	10.50	10.50
Japanese	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50